

Iroquois

National Wildlife Refuge

Fact Sheet for Members of Congress

Represented by the following Members of Congress:

Senator Charles E. Schumer (D)
Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton (D)
Rep. Thomas M. Reynolds (R-26th)

Contact

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Profile

Established:	1958
Current acres:	10,818
Staff:	8
FY 2002 budget:	\$681,000
2002 volunteer hours:	3,455
2002 visitation:	30,000

Purpose

Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge was established for use as an inviolate sanctuary, or for any other management need, for migratory birds.

Public Use Notes

- Visitor center
- Live television pictures from an active bald eagle nest
- Hunting (big game, small game, waterfowl, spring turkey)

Management Activities

- Manage 4,000 acres of wetlands to maximize habitat for migratory birds
- Manage 1,400 acres of grasslands primarily for nesting cover for waterfowl and other birds

- Control invasive exotic species
- Monitor and protect bald eagle habitat
- Maintain more than 400 nest boxes for wood ducks and 85 nest boxes for bluebirds

Highlights

Spring and fall migrations of waterfowl provide great viewing opportunities. Several species of special concern, including the black tern, least bittern and sora rail, frequent the marsh habitat.

The bald eagle nest on the refuge is monitored by remote camera. A live picture feed provides viewing for thousands of visitors.

Several large areas of restored native grassland provide models for other government agencies and NGOs.

Issues

Swallow Hollow Boardwalk has deteriorated due to age and is unsafe, forcing closure to protect visitors. Friends of Iroquois NWR, Inc., an active support group for the refuge, has received grants of \$250,000, \$50,000 and \$15,000 to rebuild the trail. The Job Corps is demolishing the old structure and will be involved in replacement. With the refuge purchasing all materials for replacement in 2003, this truly is a partnership project with much community support.

Several species of exotic plants are invading the refuge and degrading valuable wildlife habitat



In partnership with Ducks Unlimited, the refuge has replaced six water control structures at a considerable savings. This is part of a major wetland rehabilitation of more than 2,000 acres. When completed, it will greatly enhance management capabilities on a major portion of the refuge, improving conditions for waterfowl, black terns, least bitterns and other marsh-nesting species.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.

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